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JOHN GUERRINI/UNITED NATIONS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY WRAPUP
(VOICE VERSION AND INSERTS IN LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY CLOSED WEDNESDAY IN NEW YORK, THOUGH IT MAY RE-OPEN SOMETIME NEXT YEAR TO TAKE UP ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. OUR U-N CORRESPONDENT, JOHN GUERRINI, LOOKS BACK AT THE WORK OF THE SESSION.

VOICE:

ONE YEAR AFTER THE STORMY SESSION THAT PRODUCED THE CONTROVERSIAL ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION, THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN MARKED BY A MOOD OF CONCILIATION AND COOPERATION. SECRETARY-GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM TOOK NOTE OF IT AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE A FEW WEEK AGO.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- WALDHEIM

VOICE:

I FIND THE ATMOSPHERE THIS YEAR, NOT ONLY AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST IS CONCERNED, BUT IN GENERAL, MORE PRAGMATIC. THERE IS AN EFFORT TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE IN ORDER TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS IN A REALISTIC WAY. I THINK THAT THIS IS A GENERAL TREND -- AND AN ELEMENT WHICH WE SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE. THERE IS THE RECOGNITION THAT BEYOND ADOPTING RESOLUTIONS, WHICH ESTABLISH PRINCIPLES, IT IS NECESSARY TO NEGOTIATE AND TO TRY TO ACHIEVE PRACTICAL, CONCRETE SOLUTIONS...I CONSIDER THIS A POSITIVE TREND. (END OPT)

MISTER WALDHEIM HAS BEEN GIVEN A PROMINENT PLACE IN THE SEARCH FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE BY ONE OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN THIS ASSEMBLY. IT CALLS FOR HIM TO TAKE STEPS

TO RE-CONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE MIDEAST BEFORE THE END OF MARCH. IT WAS A MODERATELY WORDED RESOLUTION WHICH MADE NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE ARAB INSISTENCE THAT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE.

BUT A COMPANION RESOLUTION DID DEMAND P-L-O PARTICIPATION AND CONDEMNED ISRAEL FOR CONTINUING OCCUPY ARAB TERRITORIES. ISRAEL REJECTED BOTH RESOLUTIONS.

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR CHAIM HERZOG IS NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO SAW A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE IN THIS ASSEMBLY. HE COMPLAINED THAT THE ASSEMBLY WAS BEING USED BY ARAB STATES TO ATTICK ISRAEL-PARTICULARLY WHEN ISRAEL WAS SINGLED OUT FOR CONDEMNATION AS A MILITARY PARTNER OF SOUTH AFRICA. THAT WAS ONE OF TEN RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL POLICY OF APARTHEID.

THE SOVIET UNION EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THE SESSION. A HIGH RANKING MEMBER OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION, AMBASSADOR VICTOR ISRAELYAN GAVE THIS APPRAISAL.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- ISRAELYAN

"THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS GONE BY GENERALLY IN A BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE...IT CANNOT BE SAID, HOWEVER THAT ALL THE QUESTIONS DISCUSSED AT THE SESSION WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT -- BUT THEY ALL DEMONSTRATE A GROWING UPSURGE IN U-N ACTIVITIES IN MANY DIRECTIONS."

VOICE:

AMBASSADOR ISRAELYAN SAID HE IS PLEASED AT THE RECEPTION GIVEN TO SOVIET INITIATIVES ON DISARMAENT -- AND ESPECIALLY THE ADOPTION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL TO DRAFT A TREATY ON THE NON-USE OF FORCE. THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES WORKED TOGETHER TO WIN THE ASSEMBLY'S APPROAL FOR A TREATY BANNING MODIFICATIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

U-S AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SCRANTON CITED THIS AS AN EXAMPLE OF EAST-WEST COOPERATION AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MISTER

SCRANTON SAID THERE WAS MUCH LESS CONFRONTATION AT THIS SESSION THAN IN THE PAST.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- SCRANTON

VOICE:

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE ALSO HAVE RE-ESTABLISHED A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF DIALOGUE. THE ATMOSPHERICS ARE VERY MUCH BETTER. EVEN IF WE DON'T AGREE, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL MORE INTERCHANGE OF THINKING AND AN ATTEMPT TO HOLD DOWN EXCESSIVE RHETORIC AND I THINK THIS IS A GREAT STEP FORWARD.

VOICE:

THE SINGLE DISAPPOINTMENT CITED BY AMBASSADOR SCRANTON IS THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHERE THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE VERY DIFFERENT IDEAS. BUT AMBASSADOR SCRANTON SAID HE'S DELIGHTED ABOUT THE ACTION THE ASSEMBLY TOOK IN AN AREA CLOSELY RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS: THIS WAS THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY WEST GERMANY CALLING FOR A TREATY TO BAN THE TAKING OF HOSTAGES.

JS/PY